**Impact of fast-food minimum wage boost: Experts face off**

http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-fast-food-minimum-wage-protests-20130828,0,2202907.story

This article explains how there are numerous fast food workers in around 50 cities picketing for higher pay. The workers, who live in these large cities, believe that they deserve more pay because they must provide for themselves and their families while living in an expensive environment. MIT even developed a calendar which determined that an adult living in the Los Angeles while providing for a child needs to earn $23.53 hourly to afford basic necessities. The average pay rate for these workers is now only $9.

Nick Lombardo

McBudget is an insult to the nations working poor by Leonard Pitts

Recently many fast food employees have been protesting that their salary is not enough to live on. In response to these protests McDonalds has established a McBudget in which the company suggests how an employee can live off their given salary. The proposal is absolutely ridiculous, for example they expect you to pay only $20 a month for health insurance.

Alex Ford

Fast Food Strikes Go Viral: Workers Expected to Protest Low Wages in 35 Cities Thursday

**by Victor Luckerson Aug. 27, 2013**

Read more: <http://business.time.com/2013/08/27/fast-food-strikes-go-viral-workers-expected-to-protest-low-wages-in-35-cities-thursday/#ixzz2dJid6bwU>

How much do Americans need t make to be productive members of our society and bring the slumping American economy out of its current recession?

This article explains an upcoming strike from workers that earn minimum wage at famous fast food restaurants. Many of them believe that since the restaurants, like McDonald's or Wendy's, make a lot of money from the workers, their wages should be increased for getting those companies/restaurants their incomes. And idea that is brought up a lot in this article, is the fact that the cost of living is going up, and the wage should increase so people can actually afford to live. Therefore, thousands of people, from 35 cities in America, are protesting their right to earn a wage that they can live off of, earning 7.25$ an hour is not good enough. The minimum wage is not something people can live off of, therefore, it is not/barely a boost for the economy.

Danielle McIntosh

Workers Continue fighting against low wages: "this is our right"

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/29/fast-food-workers-low-pay-nationwide-walkout>

This article discusses multiple different points about the recent minimum wage discussions. First the article talks about Veronica Clark, a fast food worker who plans on participating in a fast food strike this Thursday. It then goes on to talk about the surprisingly low wages the Unities States have set compared to other First world counties. Then the article talks about how the minimum wage has failed to travel with inflation, and that in the 60's the were fighting to raise a minimum wage that was higher than it is today.

Matthew Morgan

Fast Food: Would a higher minimum wage mean pricier burgers?

<http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-fast-food-minimum-wage-strikes-20130827,0,6607607.story>

This article discusses the fact that since the workers are demanding higher minimum wages, the prices of the burgers and food can rise at fast food restaurants. They are demanding a $15 minimum wage compared to the $7.25 they make currently. If the minimum wage is raised the $15 amount, then food prices will go up 17%. It will also create a huge slide in employment. Then, the article talks about the employee turnover and how is very expensive to constantly hire and recruit workers. A benefit to raising the minimum wage is that if the employees are satisfied with their jobs, companies will save money by keeping their current employees since they may be more satisfied with what they are making. But, the prices of food may go up.

Nick Saggese

**Despite fast food protests, Congress in no rush on minimum wage**

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/29/politics/minimum-wage-congress-obama/index.html?iref=allsearch>

The article is about a group of Fast food workers striking for higher wages in seven cities, and Congress isn’t likely to raise the minimum wage. Obama wants to raise the wages of minimum wage from 7.25$ to 9.00$. When the House voted on raising minimum wage every Republican and six Democrats voted against raising the minimum wage. Lastly An estimated 3.6 million people were paid hourly rates at or below the federal minimum in 2012.

Chris Chiamulera

No boost for min wage, now what? Column by Duncan Black

August 29, 2013

http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/08/29/mlk-march-commemoration-federal-minimum-wage-column/2701931/

How much do Americans need to make to be productive members of our society and bring the slumping American economy out of its current recession?

This article first starts off with noticing the anniversary of Dr. Marin Luther King’s speech. Duncan Black talks about how Dr. King wanted to raise federal minimum wage to $2 and how we should be going back to what he was saying about raising minimum wage. The article mostly talks about how controversial the whole topic of “should we or should we not raise minimum wage?” really is. Black talks about the negative impact on the economy if they were to raise minimum wage, even if it’s just trying to help. Even though the big question is “Should we raise minimum wage?” the real question should be “what is the best way to alleviate poverty in this country.” A lot of the programs to alleviate poverty are costly to implement. Black talks about the makers vs. takers and how lots of the working poor are actually the takers.

Jackie Reardon

<http://ideas.time.com/2013/02/21/the-promise-of-more-why-we-should-raise-the-minimum-wage/>

This article starts off talking about the history of minimum wage and how it was originated in 1938 by President Roosevelt. It goes on to say that the current minimum wage, yearly salary of 15,080 dollars is not nearly enough to live a comfortable life above the poverty line. It lastly says that the low minimum wage discourages people from working in general.

Madison Bolotin

[http://townhall.com/columnists/charliekirk/2013/08/07/how-the-minimum-wage-hurts-young-workers-n1657781/page/2](https://webmail.darienps.org/OWA/redir.aspx?C=c559e0b36ec34ff5bba2b147ca889616&URL=http%3a%2f%2ftownhall.com%2fcolumnists%2fcharliekirk%2f2013%2f08%2f07%2fhow-the-minimum-wage-hurts-young-workers-n1657781%2fpage%2f2)

This is an article focused on the possible effects of raising the minimum wage. Disclaimer: the website where this article is posted is a very conservative site so the opinions are therefore coming from a conservative standpoint. Charlie Kirk argues that some of these minimum wage workers will be the ones who are hurt by raising the minimum because the worker in a job with the lowest performance is likely to get laid off once the business manager can no longer afford to pay every worker and still make the same profit. He argues that although the majority of Americans would vote to raise the minimum wage, it is important for officials to "defend economic reality."

The Wahington Post: Fast food workers are staying longer on the job- and wanting more

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-leadership/wp/2013/08/29/fast-food-workers-are-staying-longer-on-the-job-and-wanting-more/>

This article emphasis the anger and frustration of most fast food workers who are now creating what is known to be the industry's largest strike ever. With the desire to raise the minimum wage from $7.25 to $15 a hour, workers are demanding an alteration in the federal law. This article emphasis the high turnover rate that comes with the fast food industry due to people being unable to hold a job. If companies were able to increase their hourly wage they it would allow for more employees to hold a steady job for a longer period of time

Jackie Brokaw

http://www.forbes.com/sites/warrenmeyer/2011/01/21/the-minimum-wage-putting-the-first-rung-on-the-ladder-of-success-out-of-reach/

The Minimum Wage: Putting the First Rug on the Ladder of Success Out of Reach

www.forbes.com/sites/warrenmeyer/2011/01/21/the-minimum-wage-putting-the-first-rung-on-the-ladder-of-success-out-of-reach/2

This article in Forbes magazine expresses the exactly why the minimum wage should not be raised. Warren Meyer believes that a main aspect of working in a job that pays the minimum wage is the experience as a whole and learning the basic skills of being an employee. He expresses that after much searching for jobs, the people with very little work experience will get fired soon after because they do not know the simple skills we take for granted everyday; such as showing up on time and people skills. Meyer, being the owner of a company, explains in this article that he finds himself firing many employees when the minimum wage goes up because he cannot afford to have them on staff. When the minimum wage goes up, the workers that have little to no experience and do not have much skill working have no chance in becoming successful. Meyer understands that more people need to make more money in America, but with higher paying jobs, more people will be homeless because they're completely out of work. Meyer says that success is achieved through hard work, but workers may not have the opportunity for success if the minimum wage is raised.

Eliza Wisinski

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/02/01/should-we-revisit-the-negative-income-tax.html>

Let's Revisit Negative Income Tax

This article reflects the idea that when people get earned income credit, they are going to quit their jobs. They no longer need to make it above the poverty line because the government is going to supply them with the rest of the money. Jobs don’t matter if the earned income credit comes into play, the amount of money would no longer need to be earned a a rapid rate if they know that they have the governments handouts to fall back on. This article expresses the reality that maybe minimum wage doesn’t matter if this type of system is implemented. The government is starting to come into the problem that people are starting to try to protest minimum wage, but if all these people are quitting their jobs then the percentage of people that need the government handouts is going to rapidly increasing.

Liz Stile

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/29/politics/minimum-wage-congress-obama/index.html?iref=allsearch>

This article focuses on the impact of minimum wage on workers and how raising the federal minimum wage level could have both positive and negative effects. The recent protests of fast food workers have brought more attention to this issue than before and President Obama has been much more attentive to this as well. However, only congress is able to raise the federal minimum wage level and as of right now they are a lot more focused on other issues such as the immigration reform and the farm bill. For the time being, the pros and cons of raising this level have been looked at rather closely and seem to be leaning toward it having more of a negative impact. The good news, however, is that the percentage of workers making minimum wage is the lowest it has been since 2008. Also, the federal level is the absolute lowest a worker can be paid without tips and some states and cities have set their own minimum wages at rates a lot higher than the current federal rate of $7.25.

Rudy Blosio

[**http://www.cepr.net/index.php/blogs/cepr-blog/blog-post-health-and-education-on-the-minimum-wage**](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/blogs/cepr-blog/blog-post-health-and-education-on-the-minimum-wage)

"Affording Health Care and Education on the Minimum Wage"

This article shows how minimum wage, $7.25, is at an all-time low in history due to the cost of living rising annually, all while the salary for the minimum-wage workers remains the same. For people to move from the lower into the middle class, the biggest obstacle is paying for health insurance and college tuition. There are statistics that show how a worker in “1979 making $2.90 per hour, had to work 254 hours in a year to pay the $738 annual cost of tuition at a public four-year college in that same year. By 2010, minimum-wage workers at $7.25 per hour had to spend 923 hours to cover the $6,695 annual tuition at a public four-year college.” Minimum wage was once proportional to what the cost of living was in earlier years, but many improving factors of society are making the cost of living much greater, such as a higher life expectancy creating more medical expenses and the demand for high education levels in the working world increasing the cost of college tuitions. Only about 8.1% of minimum wage workers purchase individual health insurance policies, leaving the rest without any kind of insurance to cover their basic needs. Today, workers must work strenuous hours to earn just enough to survive, and manage to save more money to protect their health or invest in an education. To be productive members of society, Americans need to make enough money to support themselves on a daily basis and have an opportunity to education and to defend their health.

Mary O'Boyle

<http://www.raisetheminimumwage.com/pages/worker-stories>

This article has different stories on how people live off minimal wage. Five people in this article explain their jobs and how much they make. They say how it is almost impossible to survive with such low income. Everyone in this article has children and say that it is even harder to survive when there are children that you have to spend on. The range of the salary that each person earns is between $4.95 to $8.75 an hr. one thing that is brought up by one of the ladies in this article is that since the economy is struggling right now people are eating at home more to save money and as a waitress it is hard to earn tip money when no one is going out to eat.

Jessica Thornbury

Young Childless Minimum Wage Workers Aren't Part Of The 47%, But Should Be By Dilane Mitchell

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/janetnovack/2013/08/22/young-childless-minimum-wage-workers-arent-part-of-the-47-but-should-be/>

This article talks about how childless minimum wage workers must deal with their taxes and all the benefits that they get. It goes into detail about how one must pay his or her government while working two minimum wage jobs, and also talks about the tax benefits and cuts that they receive, which enforces the fact that they aren’t productive members of society if the government has to pay to take care of them.

Robbie James